

# VOLUNTEER NEWS



## WE MISS OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

As of late July, North Carolina and Mecklenburg County have again EXTENDED Phase 2 of reopening due to the ongoing coronavirus situation.

Check out our **NEWLY REDESIGNED** website for the latest information:

<https://www.mecknc.gov/ParkandRec/Pages/Home.aspx>

**MOST PARK & RECREATION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES REMAIN "ON HOLD"!**



## Here are a few ways YOU can keep helping in your Parks NOW:

- **KEEP SAFETY FIRST!** Observe all social distancing and public health directives.
- **Look for wildlife!** Take photos of animals, birds, insects, plants and flowers, scenic views and your favorite places.
- **UPLOAD your photos TO THIS LINK** - your pics may be posted to Park & Recreation's social media!
- When you go walking, take a small trash bag and **gloves** with you – pick up trash along your walk, place in a trash receptacle and then WASH YOUR HANDS.
  - **Always wear gloves; avoid sharp or heavy objects; and please stay out of streams/water.**
- Check us out on Facebook for NEW "Park Smarts" videos and MORE > > <https://www.facebook.com/MeckParkRec/> - PLEASE LIKE AND SHARE US!
- Follow us on Twitter @meckparkrec or Instagram meckparkrec



## DID YOU KNOW...?

According to IndependentSector.org, the current (July 2020) national average value of Volunteer time is now **\$27.20 per hour!** **THANK YOU** for giving your valuable time!

## “A WALK IN THE PARK” Cleanup Projects

Sign up today to help keep your favorite Park or Greenway clean and healthy by picking up trash! A great way to spend an hour at lunchtime on **Tuesdays, 11:00am-12:00**, getting outdoors and helping in your community.

REGISTER AT THIS LINK: [Park and Recreation Volunteers: Summer Volunteer Projects](#)

- Registration is limited to 20 Volunteers per date – **EVERY VOLUNTEER MUST PRE-REGISTER!**
- Volunteers should plan to bring their own work gloves, face coverings and water supply – **All current distancing and health directives will be followed.**
- An email will be sent to all Volunteers the day before the cleanup date, with details about parking, what to bring, what to wear, etc. **\*Cleanup/Parking locations subject to change!**
- Volunteers should be at least 10 years old; anyone under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 21 years old.

If you have questions, or if you have a group who would like to help on a different day/time, please contact the Park & Recreation Volunteer Coordinator at [Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov](mailto:Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov).

### UPCOMING DATES @ LOCATIONS:

- August 4 @ Evergreen Nature Preserve, 1336 Norland Rd, 28205
- August 11 @ Little Sugar Creek Greenway/Midtown, 727 Charlottetown Ave, 28204
- August 18 @ Greenville Park, 1275 Hamilton Street, 28206
- August 25 @ Torrence Creek Greenway, Huntersville, 28078
- September 1 @ Stewart Creek Greenway & MLK Park, 2600 Ravencroft Dr, 28208



## WHAT ABOUT THE HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL?

This year the Hummingbird Festival is going virtual for **Hummingbird Week, August 3 – 8!** These tiny migrants are a marvel of nature and engineering. We will share some insights about their lives and how you can help them overcome life challenges. Visit the Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation FACEBOOK page for the Event schedule: [2020 HUMMINGBIRD WEEK](#)



Here's another photo opportunity ...



## KEEP CHARLOTTE BEAUTIFUL Photo Contest!

What makes Charlotte beautiful? **Keep Charlotte Beautiful** wants to know! KCB is partnering with The Light Factory to launch their first ever photography contest, available to all residents of Charlotte. The prize? Your photograph on coasters in breweries across Charlotte! For more information, contact [kcb@charlottenc.gov](mailto:kcb@charlottenc.gov). **Entries due by August 31<sup>st</sup>!**



## The Parks are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC –

and our Park Operations staff have been working hard to keep everything looking great.

*Here are the first Volunteers to participate in the NEW “A Walk In The Park” trash cleanups! THANK YOU for coming out to help!*



**SCOUTS** – Park & Recreation will continue to accept LIMITED Scout project proposals, on a case-by-case basis – contact [VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov](mailto:VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov) for information.



**Are you a Nature-Lover?**

***VOLUNTEER AT A NATURE CENTER!***

We are always looking for dedicated Volunteers to help in our Nature Centers!  
**NATURE CENTERS WILL BE REOPENING SOON, WITH PATRON CAPACITY LIMITS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN PLACE!** You can still contact Volunteer Services or your favorite Nature Center to let us know you would like to help later this year!

- **QUEST (at Latta Nature Preserve)**, 6211 Sample Road, Huntersville, 28078  
**CONTACT: [Anjoli.Reynolds@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:Anjoli.Reynolds@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov)**
- **Reedy Creek Nature Center**, 2900 Rocky River Road, 28215  
**CONTACT: [Jose.Chavez@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:Jose.Chavez@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov)**
- **McDowell Nature Center**, 15222 South York Road, Charlotte, 28278  
**CONTACT: [Melissa.OLenick@MeckNC.gov](mailto:Melissa.OLenick@MeckNC.gov)**



*Note that many of these roles require an ongoing time commitment and additional training:*

- **Animal Care Assistant** – Basic or Advanced
- **Visitor Services** – Greet visitors; help maintain exhibits, etc.
- **Docent** – Trained in animal handling; assist with Nature Center programs and events; etc.
- **Grounds Volunteer** – Various tasks in outdoor areas around Nature Center





## Opportunities for Groups



*While most Volunteer opportunities remain “on hold,” we are starting to welcome some of our dedicated Volunteer groups back to the Parks!*

### **SELF-GUIDED PROJECTS** for groups of 20 or fewer Volunteers

**Self-Guided Volunteer groups will conduct trash cleanups on Greenways and in Parks!**

- Visit [www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com) to find a Greenway or Park location that will be convenient for your Volunteers.
- Contact us with a requested date for your project – 2 weeks out, please! – and an estimated number of Volunteers, including how many adults and youth, if applicable.
- We prefer to schedule Volunteer projects during the morning on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, if possible. We can work with you if you need a different day or time!
- Park & Recreation staff will meet your group, to review safety guidelines and get you started.
- **Volunteers should plan to bring their own work gloves, trash bags, water supply and face coverings. *Volunteers are expected to follow all current distancing and safety directives!***
- **For Youth Volunteers:** There must be at least 1 adult per 10 youth/teens; Volunteers should be at least 10 years old.

**Contact [Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov](mailto:Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov) for more information and to schedule a date!**

### **LARGE GROUP PROJECTS** will remain “on hold” a while longer...

**Contact us to let us know of your interest for AFTER LABOR DAY!**

We welcome any group: businesses, churches, neighborhoods, fraternities/sororities, Scouts, students, civic groups – **any organized group of at least 10 Volunteers!** Large Group projects are scheduled for 9:00am-12:00 on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. These projects are supplied and fully supervised by Park & Recreation staff.

For more information on volunteering for any of our projects, please contact:

- Karen Howard at 980-314-1046 [Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov](mailto:Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov)



## **SATURDAY PROJECTS**

**Watch for Fall dates!**

**Saturday Projects are open for public signup and will be planned once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.**





## VOLUNTEER ENROLLMENT TIPS

We LOVE our Volunteers, and we want to make it EASY for you to come and help your community! Here are a few tips for you...THANK YOU for taking the time to support YOUR Park & Recreation Department!

**\*PLEASE NOTE that Volunteer applications are NOT being processed at this time!**

YOU DO **NOT** NEED TO REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- For one-day events or projects
- For helping with a program ONE time; or for less than 10 hours total (Example: chaperoning ONE field trip for an out-of-school program)

YOU **MUST** REGISTER/JOIN THE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:

- To be a Coach for any sport
- To assist with an ongoing program on a regular basis (Example: tutoring once a week; teaching ESL)

Please contact [VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov](mailto:VolunteerServices@MeckNC.gov) if you are not sure whether or not you need to enroll for a volunteer project, event or program. We are happy to assist you!

### CONTACT US!

For more information on volunteering for any of our programs or projects, please contact:

Karen Howard at 980-314-1046

[Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov](mailto:Karen.Howard@MeckNC.gov)



**WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

PLEASE NOTE: Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent/adult who is at least 21 years old.

*\*Volunteers working with Therapeutic & Inclusive Recreation Services (TIRS) must be at least 18 years old.*

## Volunteer Services Program Mission Statement

1. To assist Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department staff in providing services needed to offer quality recreation and leisure services to the community by:

- Supporting direct services provided to the public by salaried department staff.
- Supplementing internal support service functions, including maintenance, clerical, administrative and similar tasks.

2. To provide the Citizens of Mecklenburg County opportunities for citizen involvement and to increase their awareness of the Department's responsibilities, facilities and services.